

Today, Rep. Braley gave an opening statement at the Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing on the American Clean Energy and Security Act

Washington, DC - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) today made the following opening statement at the Energy and Commerce Committee's markup hearing on the *American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act*

The ACES Act is a major piece of energy legislation that will invest in clean, renewable energy, create jobs, and reduce America's output of carbon emissions:

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"Thank you, Chairman Waxman, for holding this markup.

"I commend you for your efforts on H.R. 2454, the *American Clean Energy and Security Act*. Addressing climate change and energy independence are two of the greatest challenges facing us.

I know it's taken a lot of work and consensus to try to come up with language that balances the needs of individuals and businesses, and I am pleased that you have brought so many people to the table from diverse industries and interest groups to put together this legislation.

"I am encouraged by several provisions included within this bill to promote clean energy jobs. This legislation should be seen as an opportunity to put in place a green industry within the

United States.

We should take advantage of our world-class education system to make sure we have adequately trained workers for careers in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation.

"I am also glad that this legislation now includes "cash for clunkers" language. This language, which is similar to language I introduced along with Congresswoman Betty Sutton earlier this year, provides \$3000 to \$7500 incentives to buy more fuel-efficient cars or trucks.

It is a
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situation: it will boost our economy, save families money, and decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

"The bill also includes language that I introduced with Congressman Peter Welch to establish the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program, which sets energy and environmental building retrofit policies for both residential and commercial buildings and can have a huge impact on reducing energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

"I am proud that Iowa is now second in the nation in wind generation. Iowa's success story is further evidence that investment in renewable energy is working.

Iowa is home to six wind manufacturing companies representing thousands of green collar jobs and an investment of nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in our state.

Iowa now has the installed capacity of over 2,700 MW.

This amount of wind generation will provide about 18% of Iowa's total electricity needs.

"We can all benefit from investments in wind energy and other renewables through newly created jobs and industries, cheaper energy, cleaner skies, and a reduced dependence on foreign oil. While I would have liked to see a larger percentage of allowances in this bill allocated towards renewables, I understand there were a lot of competing interests for these

allowances and this legislation still goes a long ways towards increased renewables deployment.

"There is also language in place that will keep in balance energy costs for low- and middle-income Americans. In fact, 60% of all the allowances from this bill will help consumers.

This includes 35% of allowances to the electricity sector that will provide protection from price increases.

Local natural gas distribution companies will receive 9% of the allowances which they must use to protect consumers, and states will receive 1.5% of allowances to benefit users of home heating oil and propane.

Additionally, 15% of allowances will be distributed through tax credits and payments to low- and moderate-income households. It is essential we protect consumers, especially during these tough economic times.

"Farmers in my District can also play a key role in reducing carbon emissions. According to this legislation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to write regulations for certifying, maintaining, and trading offsets.

I hope they'll see the benefits that farmers can provide through carbon capture and sequestration and in reducing carbon emissions through offset projects such as use of methane digesters and no-till farming.

"I am encouraged by the progress that has taken place on this legislation and its potential for ending our dependence on foreign energy, protecting the environment for future generations, and making the transformation to a clean energy economy. The energy revolution has begun. We need your help to make it a reality."